

# MULTILAYER FIREWALL SYSTEM

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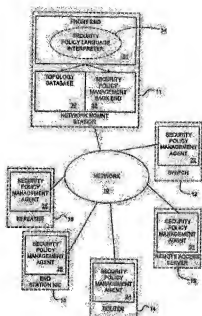
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Abstract not available for JP 2002507295 (T)

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A system provides for establishing security in a network (10) that includes nodes having security functions operating in multiple protocol layers. Multiple network devices, such as remote access equipment (13), routers (14), switches (12), repeaters (18) and network cards (15) having security functions are configured to contribute to implementation of distributed firewall functions in the network. By distributing firewall functionality throughout many layers of the network in a variety of network devices, a pervasive firewall is implemented. The pervasive, multilayer firewall includes a policy definition component (11) that accepts policy data that define how the firewall should behave. The multilayer firewall also includes a collection of network devices that are used to enforce the defined policy. The security functions operating in this collection of network devices across multiple protocol layers are coordinated by the policy definition component so that particular devices enforce that part of the policy pertinent to their part of the network.



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